Canada's 'Mounties' on the Kaiser's Trail

"They Always Get Their Man," Tribute to the Corps for Forty Years, Ominous for the Hun

CANADA'S scarlet riders are off to the war. With them is lost one of the few remaining links with the romantic past of the Canadian West. The Royal Northwest Mounted Police have been permitted to enlist as a body to "get the Kaiser," and it is unlikely that the old organization will be revived after the war. For "the old order changeth, giving place to new," and there is no longer the old imperative need for the services of this wonderfully capable body of men. The Canadian West has grown up.

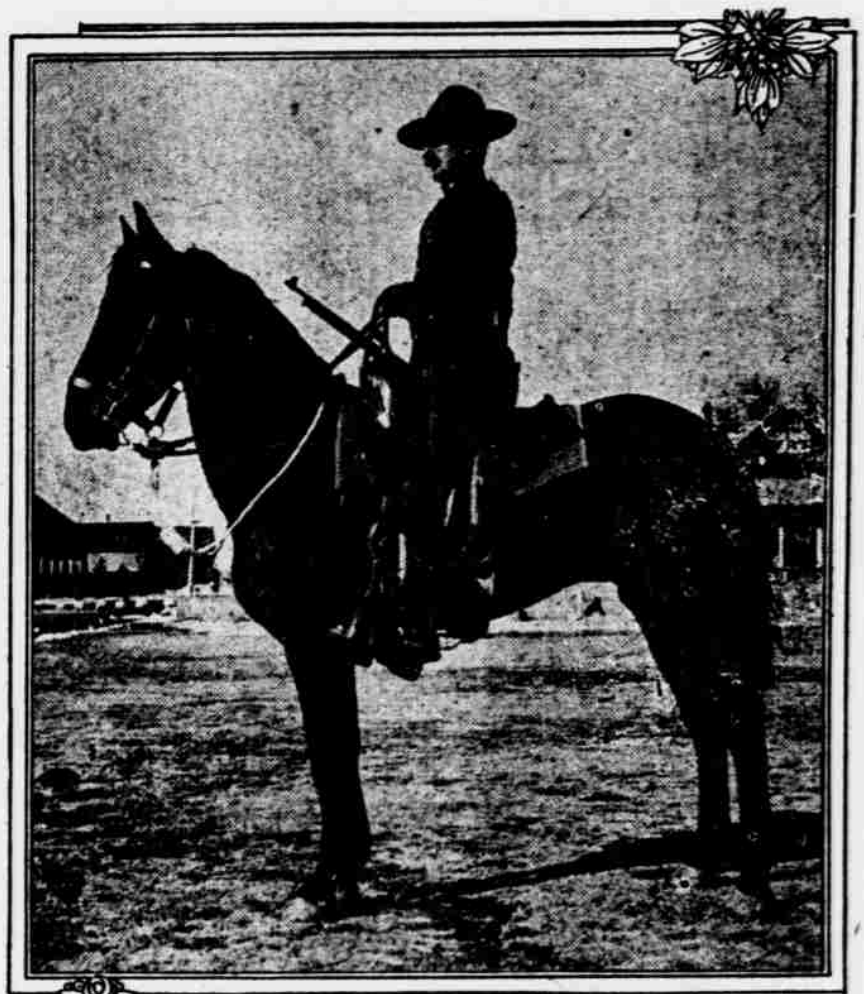
"They always get their man." For more than forty years this has been said in the Canadian West of the Canadian "Mounties." Not by the men themselves, for they have the proverbial modesty of the really brave. Not in the dry and laconic official reports which give scarcely a hint of the stirring romantic stories of which they are the uninteresting graveyard. But it has been said by the early settlers who owed to the Mounted Police their immunity from raids by Indians and bad men.

It has been the unwilling tribute of the Indians and the lawbreaking element among the whites. If not literally true, it has for so long been so nearly true that the saying many years ago became a proverb among Canadians, "They always get their man." Therefore if there be any truth in proverbs, let the Kaiser beware! The "Mounties" are on his trail!

It was not until the spring of this year that permission was given the "Mounties" to enlist for overseas. The Canadian Government was loath to lose their services at home; and moreover, there was little demand for cavalry in France. But many a scarlet rider deserted that he might join an infantry battalion, and in most instances the authorities winked at the offence.

Officers and men felt that the historic force had passed its years of usefulness in Canada, that nothing more than the provincial police was needed now, and constant pressure was exerted at Ottawa to secure permission for the Riders of the Plains to enlist as a body for service in the Great Adventure overseas. In April that permission was given.

As there were less than 600 men on the roll of the force, permission was also given to recruit to the full strength of a battalion. So the call went forth for men who could shoot and ride, and within a few days applications had to be refused. Such is the glamour of connection with this famous force that a cavalry brigade of "Mounties" could be recruited in the Canadian West in a month. And this may yet be done.



TYPICAL NORTH WEST "MOUNTIE"

No adequate history of this famous force will ever be written. The material for such history has passed away with the men who won for the mounted police their merited fame thirty to forty years ago. But some day will surely arise a writer who can give life to the dry bones of the annual official reports and will find there the romantic material for stories whose life and popularity will not be fleeting.

In the early seventies the newly formed Canadian Confederation became ambitious to surpass in area its big and expanding neighbor to the south. The Northwestern prairies and British Columbia were added to the new Dominion. A new territory of nearly 2,000,000 square miles had to be governed and policed.

It was at that time that Uncle Sam was engaged in a prolonged and rather acrimonious dispute with a citizen rejoicing in the picturesque name of Sitting Bull. That gentleman's Sioux relatives and retainers knew little of international boundary lines and cared less. When things became too hot for them south of the forty-ninth parallel of latitude they had an annoying habit of travelling north.

Their visits were not welcome; but what could be done about them? The white settlers were alarmed and Ottawa feared that 70,000 well behaved Canadian Indians might learn bad habits. There was also danger from the visits of enterprising American traders engaged in the smuggling of fire water.

So it was that Sir John A. Macdonald, the founder of the Canadian Confederation, established the Northwest Mounted Police. That life and property were safe in the pioneer days of the Canadian West, that serious crime was of infrequent occurrence, that Canadian Indians made little trouble for the settlers, that law was respected in those early days of the country, was due to the work of the little band of redcoats.

At first they were were only 150 strong; for a short period they had slightly more than 1,000 men; but for the greater part of their history they numbered less than 600 men. The State of Montana is immeasurably smaller than the territory under the care of the "Mounties." It had about the same number of Indians, belonging to the same tribes, as in the Canadian Northwest. Yet the smallest number of troops that the American Government thought it safe to keep in that State in those days was 3,500. Small wonder that the fame of the "Mounties" has gone round the world.

There is space for but one story to illustrate the methods by which the scarlet coated riders of the plains ruled the turbulent red man.

Chiefs Pie-a-Pot and Long Lodge objected to the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway. At the head of a band of several hundred Crees they left their reservations and went on the warpath, determined to upset the plans of the railway builders.

Canada's first transcontinental had laid its steel more than half way across the prairies when these warlike chiefs encamped on the line of survey. Fire water and firearms they had in sufficient supply to make them dangerous. Construction stopped. Word was sent eastward.

Mounted police headquarters at Regina telegraphed to the post at Maple Creek that the Indians must be made to move on. Two men, a sergeant and a constable, undertook the task.

They found Chief Pie-a-Pot and his braves in belligerent and stubborn mood. The braves backed their ponies against the police horses, fired their guns in the air and refused to obey the order to move.

The sergeant pulled out his watch.

"I'll give you fifteen minutes. If you don't go then I shall force you to go."

Pie-a-Pot grunted and smoked his pipe. The fifteen minutes passed and nothing happened.

Five minutes later several things had happened. The sergeant and constable had advanced on the chief's tepee and kicked out the key pole. They did the same for the other tepees. They made a thorough job of it.

"Now move on and save us the trouble of moving you."

They moved on. The prestige of the force was such that very rarely did an Indian persist in open defiance. Behind those two "Mounties" was a band of scarlet coated riders of whom it was said then, as it is still said, "They always get their man."

There is some doubt whether the Mounted Police will be permitted, when they go overseas, to retain their identity. It is said that they are to be broken up and used as reenforcement drafts for other bodies of Canadian cavalry now on the western front. Such a fate would be a sad anti-climax to their long and gloriously romantic career.

The force has a history all its own. It has a reputation as a band of wonderful horsemen unsurpassed in any part of the world. If the military authorities have a spark of sentiment or imagination they will permit these men to remain together that they may add in France and Flanders to the laurels of their romantic and glorious force.

The whole North American Continent knows something of the reputation and the history of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police. On both side of the international boundary line there are many who will follow with a special interest their exploits of the great war.

"They always get their man." Here's hoping they may get Kaiser Bill.

Police Force That Kept Order Over Vast Territory Enlists as a Body for Duty Overseas

Enright Plans League to Provide Jobs for Soldiers After the War

(*Continued from Preceding Page.*)

followed the civil war, such as the multitudes of tramps who swarmed over the whole country, you'll agree, I believe, that I am not unduly anxious."

The Commissioner himself did not enlarge upon this anxiety. Men with whom he has discussed the subject say he is keenly interested and exhaustively informed on the plans of the I. W. W. luminaries and the like to take advantage of the situation, especially as to labor, that may follow peace and raise the red flag in an effort to out-Bolshevik the Bolsheviki. Also that he doesn't consider these gentry too unimportant for serious attention.

In May he wrote his Liberty League memorandum. Copies of it have gone to the men whom he has tried to persuade to father the movement. Here it is:

> In every community up-State, in every election or Assembly district in the larger towns and cities, a prominent citizen—either a man or a woman, and preferably one engaged in a permanent business enterprise—must be approached and the objects of the league explained.
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> They must be instructed to form a chapter, its numerical strength depending on the size of the community. When formed this chapter must ascertain the number of men who have gone to the front from the area included within the chapter.
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> They must keep posted on the number of these men who have been killed or injured or partially or totally disabled; who are on furlough; who are listed as deserters, missing, &c. They must keep in touch with local industrial conditions in so far as they affect the possibilities of employment. They must ascertain how many of the former employers of the soldiers and sailors will be willing and able to furnish suitable employment to their former employees, and put them on record to that effect. They must keep a close watch on all local industrial conditions with a view to coping with the inevitable confusion that will follow a period of such intense activity and inflated economic conditions as exist at present.
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> Following the cessation of hostilities, what is to become of the overgrown war industries, their subsidiaries, and, above all, of the hundreds of thousands of men and women who are employed in them?
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> When the present tension relaxes, following the triumph of American arms, another abnormal condition will immediately set in. We are pledged to a policy of no territorial acquisition and no indemnity. One of the prime objects of the Liberty League will be to see in the State of New York that there is no hiatus between the cessation of hostilities and the work of reconstruction and readjustment of the political and economic phases of our country to post-bellum conditions.
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> The proverb, "In time of peace prepare for war," in the present instance must be transposed. We must read instead, "In time of war prepare for peace," for we are fighting a war of idealism, and we shall have no tithes to collect, no tribute to lay, after the war to compensate for our actual financial losses nor for our economic losses in men and time.
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> After the termination of hostilities we shall have to face the most arduous and trying of tasks, that of rebuilding that which has been wrecked, physically, financially and morally. To persons of weak moral fibre no toil is more repulsive, no effort more loathsome, than to be forced to do work which they have already done well.
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> The gangster, gunman, dope fiend and parasite who have been rehabilitated by military training, and experiences that will bring manliness to the surface, if the faintest spark of it exists, will be once more thrown into environments, following the end of the war, that formerly insured their debauchery. It is unthinkable that society should, from sheer lack of forehandedness, not only lose the value of these men as good citizens, but permit them to become a tax and burden, in their original characters, upon it.
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> Nothing is more pressingly necessary than to prepare the people at large for the realization that the cheerful, courageous and energetic attacking of this task is vitally necessary for the continuation of our national ideals and very existence after the war. Nothing is more pressingly necessary, in furtherance of this plan, than that a concerted, organized and intelligent effort should be made to provide the man power of the nation with a channel through which their efforts can meet with proper and immediate recognition when they return and take their places once more in civil life.

"I called it Liberty League," says the Commissioner, "for want of time to think of a better name, and because Liberty things are popular and appropriate just now. But I don't care what it's called, so long as it is created."

Both locally and nationally, he believes, the league should be entirely unofficial, a patriotic structure of private citizens. It would be, in effect, a clearing house for employment, a countrywide or Statewide chain of employment bureaus, and its work would be to ask every employer, "What jobs have you open?" and every returned soldier, "What did you do before you went into the army? What else can you do, and what work do you now prefer, if you can get it?" and then to bring the two together.

The project wants a father, one more appropriately situated and less crowded with routine work than Commissioner Enright. He has been leaving it on door steps in a basket, so to speak, and finding it rejected with admiring thanks, until he despairs of having it adopted in that way. A public statement, he hopes, will be more successful.